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JERUSALEM

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1. Information from the Jewish Agency's Arab Information (Palestine) Weekly Summary No. 1/48, dated 5 April 1/48.

2. Arab Points over League Trusteeship

The League seems to be not unwilling to contemplate a temporary trusteeship, on the assumption that Arab independence in Palestine will be secured at a later stage, and that the Arab states are not especially interested in hastening it. For the time being, the Arab states are preparing ostensibly to stand on the sidelines and leave the initiative in bringing about a decision in the Security Council and General Assembly to the Arab Executive. This move would enable the League to claim that it is not intervening in Palestinian affairs. At the same time it could, if requested, moderate the extremist demands of the A.H.E. It would therefore seem to suit the convenience of the League to let the A.H.E. press its intransigent claims. It was for this reason that the A.H.E. so promptly rejected the High Commissioner's appeal for a cease fire. This also explains why Jamal HUSAYNI was sent to represent the A.H.E. at the unofficial talks on the trusteeship proposal. The Arab proposal that 12 AM Fatah should go to Lake Success now is not considered desirable at this early stage.

3. While the Arabs are not very confident about the questions of trusteeship and the granting of Arab independence, and many Arab circles in Palestine are doubtful whether the British will withdraw according to the timetable laid down, they firmly uphold the attitude that they have taken up with regard to a truce. It is felt in some Arab quarters that the Jews are weak and isolated, and that now is therefore the time to provide a full demonstration of Arab military and political strength. From this point of view, any agreement on the part of the Arabs to a truce would seem to them to be an unjustifiable concession. This does not mean, however, that the unofficial negotiations now begin in, at Lake Success, and the secret announcements that may be given the Arabs, will not compel them to change their minds and agree to a truce.

4. Arab Fears for Supplies and Public Services

The A.H.E. has consistently refused to take any steps to ensure the continuance of Government services upon the termination of the mandate. Its action was due to the fear that anything it did in this direction might be interpreted as indicating agreement to Partition. The

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A.H.S. believed that during the short transition period, which would call for a speedy decision on the issue, it would benefit from a state of chaos. Now it appears less certain that either the transition period or the period of fighting will be short, and it has begun to entertain fears concerning the impending chaos.

5. The League's Palestine Committee discussed the question of future supplies last week. The A.H.S. also discussed the maintenance of public services. It has begun to be realized in some Arab circles that matters have been left rather late in this respect. Military circles seem to be afraid that their having to assume the burden of meeting civilian requirements will hamper the Arab war effort.

6. Mufti Hopes to Return

The Mufti's position in Palestine has been somewhat strengthened recently. This is due to his improved standing in the Arab League, and also to the military initiative displayed in the Jerusalem area involving operations which the Arabs regard as "victories". These so-called victories, as well as the need to curb undesirable internal developments promoted by the presence of the "Liberation Army" and Arab Legion, are likely to speed up the Mufti's preparations to return to Palestine immediately after the termination of the armistice. Another possible source of anxiety to the Mufti may be the strong rumor that several national committees within the Samaria Triangle have received financial aid for their activities from the "Liberation Army". These preparations may have some connection with rumors that a strong attack is contemplated against Jewish Jerusalem. One such rumor states that a large sum of money for military purposes has reached the Jerusalem area.

7. With regard to the possibility of the Mufti's return to Palestine, it is relevant to point out that, although his own political prestige has been enhanced, several of his organizations have demonstrated their inadequacy recently. Some of the National Committees, which were formed at the instance of the Mufti, have disintegrated. This assertion is made by Sarik, which urges that new elections be held to the committees in question.

8. Arab Legion

The Arab Legion is proceeding to entrench itself in the Hebron area. There also seems to be a plan for the Legion to take up position around the Dead Sea, and also at points along the coast in the Gaza and Majdal areas. In some parts of southern Palestine the Arab population evidently looks for salvation to the Legion rather than to the "Liberation Army". The appeal made by Sarik to King ABDALLAH to send the Legion to rescue Jaffa and attack Tel Aviv reflects this feeling.

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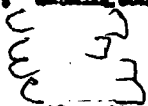
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9. General Recruits Palestinians

There are reports from a number of sources to the effect that the recruitment and training of young Palestinian Arabs have recently begun in the Jordanian Triangle. The fact that the "Liberation Army" has dug itself in in the Triangle and established firm ties with local notables has made it possible to begin local recruitment, which is something that could not be done before.

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